TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Application No.	09/183,732
Filing Date	October 30, 1998
First Named Inventor	Christopher D. Williams
Art Unit	2611
Examiner Name	Koenig, Andrew Y.

Total Number of Pages in This Submission	26	Attorney Docket Number	42390P6485

ENCLOSURES *(check all that apply)*

☒ Fee Transmittal Form

  ☒ Fee Attached

☐ Amendment / Response

  ☐ After Final

  ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)

☐ Extension of Time Request

☐ Express Abandonment Request

☐ Information Disclosure Statement

  ☐ PTO/SB/08

☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)

☐ Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application

  ☐ Basic Filing Fee

  ☐ Declaration/POA

  ☐ Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

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☐ Petition to Convert a Provisional Application

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Remarks

☐ After Allowance Communication to Group

☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences

☒ Appeal Communication to Group **(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)**

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Signature	*[signature]*
Date	September 7, 2005

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Complete if Known	
Application Number	09/183,732
Filing Date	October 30, 1998
First Named Inventor	Christopher D. Williams
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Art Unit	2611
Attorney Docket No.	42390P6485

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT	($)	500.00

METHOD OF PAYMENT *(check all that apply)*

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☒ Deposit Account Deposit Account Number: 02-2666 Deposit Account Name: Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP

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1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.	
2053	130	2053	130	Non-English specification	
1251	120	2251	60	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	450	2252	225	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	1,020	2253	510	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,590	2254	795	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,160	2255	1,080	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	500	2401	250	Notice of Appeal	
1402	500	2402	250	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	500.00
1403	1,000	2403	500	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	2451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1460	130	2460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt.	
1809	790	1809	395	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
1810	790	2810	395	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	

Other fee (specify) _____

SUBTOTAL (2)	($)	500.00

SUBMITTED BY

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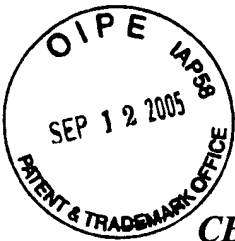
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                                                         Debbie Casias   *Date*

Docket No.: 42390P6485   Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re the Patent Application of:)
)
     Williams, C.   )
)
Serial No.:   09/183,732   ) Art Unit: 2611
)
Filed: October 30, 1998   )
) Examiner: Koenig, A.
For: Method and Apparatus for Surfing Through   )
     Multiple Sources Based on User-Definable   )
     Preferences   )
)
)

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

APPEAL BRIEF
IN SUPPORT OF APPELLANT'S APPEAL
TO THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Sir:

Applicant (hereafter "Appellant") hereby submits this Brief in triplicate in support of its appeal from a final decision by the Examiner, mailed May 8, 2005 in the above-captioned case. Appellant respectfully requests consideration of this appeal by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for allowance of the above-captioned patent application.

An oral hearing is not desired.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The invention is assigned to Intel Corporation of 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, California 95052-8119.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

To the best of Appellant's knowledge, there are no appeals or interferences related to the present appeal that will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18, 33-36, and 46-55 are currently pending in the above-referenced application. No claims have been allowed. All pending claims were rejected in the Final Office Action mailed May 8, 2005, and are the subject of this appeal.

All pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 8, 2005, rejecting claims 1-18, 33-36, and 46-55, Appellant timely filed a Notice of Appeal on July 7, 2005.

A copy of all claims on appeal is attached hereto as Appendix A.

V.   SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A recent trend in the electronics and computer industry is the convergence of computer systems and more traditional entertainment system components. Such convergence allows an increasingly broad range of information to be made available for system users over and above the broadcast television programming which has long been provided via conventional, televisions. Accompanying this convergence is the expansion of television programming transport media (e.g., the mechanism or "pipe" via which the programming is transported to the television). While analog broadcasts and analog cable were once the standard transport media for television programming, digital cable and digital satellite systems are becoming more and more commonplace. Additionally, other transport media, such as digital broadcasts, are starting to appear as options for viewers. *See Background of the Invention, page1, lines 12-21.*

However, one problem presented with convergence systems is the ease in which a user can choose from the large number of programming choices available. While a user may have had a choice of a dozen local broadcast channels or 30-40 cable channels a few years ago, the additional transport media currently being used has increased programming options into the hundreds, and will commonly be in the thousands in the not-too-distant future. The time required for the user to "surf" through all such channels from a variety of different sources becomes burdensome, thereby reducing the user's enjoyment of the system.. *See Background of the Invention, page 2, lines 8-15.*

To resolve this problem and others, the present invention presents a method of selecting an entertainment programming preferences list (*See Figure 4, 401, 402*) at an entertainment system (*See Figure 1*). The method comprises:
receiving a user identification at the entertainment system (*See page 12, lines 6-10*);
searching a set of user-definable preferences lists to identify preferences lists corresponding to the identified user (*See page 13, line 21- page 14, line 10*), the preferences lists identifying a plurality of different channels of entertainment

programming that can be added to and deleted from each identified list by the identified user (*See Figure 6 and page 17, line 17- page 18, line 9*);

displaying a list of the identified preferences lists to the user ();

receiving a selection of a displayed identified preferences list from the user at the entertainment system (*See page 14, line 20, page 17, line 10*); and

displaying the selected preferences list (*See page 14, lines 22 et seq., page 17, line 10*)..

The invention allows each user of a television or converged system to maintain their own individual set of channel preference lists. These lists may be accessed simply be entering the user ID and then selecting from the user's own personal and personalized lists. Each list is easier to "surf" through than a comprehensive list for each user or than the typical group of 3 to 5 general lists that must serve all of the users.

VI.   ISSUES PRESENTED

Whether claims 1-10 are directed to non-statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101 as reciting a computer-related process for implementing a mathematical algorithm.

VII.   GROUPING OF CLAIMS

For the purposes of this appeal, all claims (1-18, 34, 36 and 46-55)stand or fall together.

VIII. ARGUMENT

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-18, 34, 36 and 46-55 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Knee et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,589,892 ("Knee") in view of Herz U.S. Patent No. 5,758,257 ("Herz").

Knee shows a remote control (Figure 4) with three buttons 48A, 48B, 48C, each to activate a different channel preference list. These lists may be set by and modified by the user, so that particular channels may be added or removed from each list.

Herz describes a system that automatically recommends programs to particular viewers based on an analysis of the viewer's viewing history, based on a viewer ballot (questionnaire), if available, and based on demographics. Herz does not suggest how to create a list of favorite channels but instead discusses "virtual channels" which each amount to a single recommended program.

A. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION IS IN ERROR BECAUSE NEITHER REFERENCE TEACHES SEARCHING A SET OF USER-DEFINED PREFERENCES LISTS AS SPECIFICALLY RECITED IN THE CLAIMS

There are several aspects of, for example, Claim 1 that are neither taught nor suggested by this combination of references. First of all, Claim 1 is directed to a method of selecting an entertainment programming preferences list at an entertainment system. Knee selects a channel preference list based on which of the three keys is pushed by the user. Herz does not select an entertainment programming preferences list. Herz selects specific programs.

Claim 1 is further directed toward receiving a user identification at the entertainment system. The Examiner suggests that this is the same as selecting one of the three Channel Preference list keys 48A, 48B, 48C in Figure 4 of Knee. Of course, the keys in Knee do not relate to any particular user but to a particular list. Herz does teach

that a person may identify himself at Col. 29, line 32 (so that a specific profile is selected), at Col. 29, lines 22-25, and, perhaps, at Col. 45, line 60. (See the discussion of these sections under C below.)

Claim 1 is further directed to "searching a set of user-definable preferences lists to identify preferences lists corresponding to the identified user." In Knee, since the three channel preference list keys are connected directly to a list, there is no corresponding next step in Knee to "searching a set of user-definable preferences lists to identify preferences lists corresponding to the identified user." After one of the three keys in Knee is pushed the process is over. The one preference list is already identified. A search is unnecessary and not suggested. There is nothing in Herz corresponding to this element.

Claim 1 is further directed to "receiving a selection of a displayed identified preferences list." In Knee, the list was already selected when the first button was pushed so there is nothing more to be done and this element is either unsatisfied or redundant. There is nothing in Knee to suggest displaying a list of identified preferences lists to the user and receiving a selection of a displayed identified preferences list from the user. For this, the Examiner refers to Herz. In Herz, the customer may enter a user identification. There are however, no user-defined preferences lists in Herz, no identification of lists and no selecting of lists.

B. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION IS IN ERROR BECAUSE A "MOOD" IN HERZ IS NOT A "USER-DEFINABLE PREFERENCES LIST"

The Examiner's rejection relies on interpreting the "moods" of Herz as user-definable preferences list, then adding multiple "moods" per customer to the Knee system to provide multiple user-definable preferences lists

While Knee shows three channel preference lists with no particular attachment to any viewer, the Examiner suggests that it would be obvious to change the "moods" of

Herz into favorite channel lists and add the additional "moods" of Herz to the lists of Knee to arrive at the present invention.

Claim 1 describes a user-definable preferences list as "identifying a plurality of different channels of entertainment programming that can be added to and deleted from each list by the identified user." This may be similar to what is described in Knee but it is completely different from Herz.

In Herz, there is a variation in which the virtual channel (a single program) is selected based on a "mood." The "mood" is derived from observing the viewing history, from taking a ballot, and from demographics, so that, for example, a morning "mood" may select a news program and an evening "mood" may select a movie. Herz also suggests that there may be different virtual channels (selected programs) for different persons at the same TV set and that persons might identify themselves each time they start watching TV.

The Examiner points to a single sentence from the 68 columns in Herz. "As desired, the expected mood may be accessed and modified by the customer." (Col. 45, lines 31-33). This passage may refer to changing to a different "mood" for automatically selecting the program. It may, as the Examiner suggests refer to changing demographic or personality data (Col. 13, lines 55 et seq.). Changing the customer demographic or personality data may result in the system recommending a different program. On the other hand, it may not because the changed data still leads to the same recommendation, or because the "mood" also uses recorded viewing history.

In either case, there remain at least two key differences between a "user-definable preferences list" and a "mood." First, the 'user-definable preferences list" relates to a channel, not a program. The "mood" relates to a "virtual channel" but this is not really a channel, but one recommended program. This is a significant difference. In Knee, for example, the lists for each channel preferences key are built manually by the user and the user has complete control over the channels in the list. The user has no control over the

shows that are broadcast over those channels. Knee relies on an assumption that certain kinds of shows are on certain channels and so by surfing through certain channels the user is likely to find something he likes. In general, this approach works well for channels like The Food Network or ESPN2, but it does not work as well for channels like CBS or BBC America.

Herz abandons the idea of channels and consistent channel programming completely. Herz looks through all the programs no matter the channel and automatically selects programs for the user. The user has no control over the program that is selected and the program has no specific relationship to any particular channel. If the system is looking for a murder mystery it will recommend it whether it is on CBS, BBC America, the Food Network or ESPN2.

The second key difference is that with a "mood," neither the virtual channels nor the recommended programs can be added or deleted by the user. The purpose of the virtual channel is to automatically pick the right show, not to allow the user to pick the show.

Stated another way, the "mood" is not a "user-definable preferences list." The "mood" is a set of factors that are used to select a program and not a channel. The user cannot select a channel, a program or anything else by selecting the "mood". The "mood" influences choices that are made for the user, not choices made by the user. The user cannot use a "mood" to channel surf through a favorite sub-grouping of channels. The "mood" is not about channel surfing, it tries to eliminate channel surfing by automatically choosing the program that the user is looking for . (Note how the EPG is modified by adding or highlighting recommendations at Col. 45, line 38. It is not modified by adding or deleting channels.)

The Examiner would suggest that it would be obvious convert a "mood" into a "user-definable preferences list" but the references suggest exactly the opposite. The two references show completely opposite approaches to finding and choosing a program.

Knee overcomes the limitations of a conventional favorite channels list by adding two more lists. This solution has become common in the last ten years. Herz overcomes the limitations of a conventional favorite channels list by creating something completely different, a system that combines different factors to generate recommended programs. Herz, if successful would eliminate surfing (Col. 3, lines 13-16). The customer would not go to a favorites list but directly to the recommended programs and pick one to view.

C. EVEN ACCEPTING THAT A "MOOD" IS A "USER-DEFINABLE PREFERENCES LIST", THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION IS IN ERROR BECAUSE THERE IS ONLY ONE "MOOD" PER PERSON

The Examiner asserts that a mood is a user-definable preferences list and then points to the following passage. "Numerous customer profiles may be stored at each set top multimedia terminal, each corresponding to a different customer and/or mood of the customer or customers. It is desirable that the customer 916 be provided with a customer identification interface 918, such as a remote control or keypad unit, through which the customer can specify which customer profile to use at a given time and hence which agreement matrix is relevant. In other words, the customer identifier functional block 918 may be used to differentiate multiple customers or to override the mood indicator 910 to select a different profile than that which would otherwise be recommended in accordance with the time of day or expected mood of the customer" (Col. 45, line 56- Col. 46, line 2)

Reading all of Herz, it would appear that moods are used as a substitute for individual identities. Note in Column 26, lines 41-50, "after a certain amount of time the system would recognize a particular profile as belonging to a particular viewer... so that it would eventually be unnecessary for the customers to input their user IDs." However, in the preferred embodiment, customer profiles are matched to times of day, not to users. Note in Col. 27, line 62 that moods may reflect multiple customers with different tastes

watching the same television. At Column 17, lines 57 et seq. moods are linked to times of day or time windows. In short, the television can only show a single program at a time and people tend to follow consistent schedules. In Herz, it makes no different who is actually in front of the television, it matters only the types of shows that tend to be watched, during particular days and times. (See e.g. Col. 5, lines 37-40)

Herz does teach that "each customer preferably has a generic mood and may also have some specific moods." (Col. 17, lines 45-46). Herz also teaches that the "determination [of which customer profile(s) to use] is made independent of the person actually viewing the television." (Col. 26, lines 28-29). The use of the word "customer" and "customer profile" and "mood" is quite clear from the perspective of the agreement matrix for selecting programs, but is inconsistent from the perspective of persons who are watching TV.

As suggested at Col. 5, lines 37-40 and at Col. 26, lines 28-29, there is one embodiment in which the TV or the residence is the customer, and this TV has multiple profiles that get selected based on the time and day. There is another embodiment at Col. 26, lines 30 et seq. in which each person has a profile and the profile is selected based on a user ID. In other words, the customer profiles are "matched to individuals rather than just time slots as in the preferred embodiment." (Col. 26, lines 49-50.) The situation is confused because these two scenarios are allowed to coexist.

When it comes to interpreting the paragraph cited by the Examiner, this would require multiple moods per person, not just multiple moods per customer. Herz does not care whether there are different persons and different "moods" for each person. The objective is to guess what to suggest based on time and day.

The cited section of Herz reads that there are "[n]umerous customer profiles ... each corresponding to a different customer and/or mood of the customer or customers." This section is simply ambiguous. The rest of the specification describes that a "mood" corresponds to how a particular TV is watched at a particular time and that this makes

user identification unnecessary. Accordingly, the reasonable reading of this passage is that there are 1) numerous profiles, each for a different customers (person) or there are 2) numerous profiles, each for different "moods" of the customer (TV set) or of the group of customers (persons) or there are both (1) and (2). However, the Examiner reads this as stating that there are numerous profiles each corresponding to different "moods" of each of the different persons. While this may be possible with the Herz system, and while it is clearly obvious in hindsight, the reference is simply too vague to draw any clear conclusions. Herz clearly is not trying to make such a teaching or suggestion. If it were considered important to Herz, it would be stated clearly, unambiguously, and in detail just like the rest of the significant points in Herz.

The issue for obviousness is not whether a suggestion may be derived from the reference with the guidance of the new application. The issue is what the reference, read as a whole, suggests to a person of average skill in the art. Here the reference is just not clear. What it does suggest is one TV with one or more viewers that collectively exhibit different moods at different times.

D.   EVEN ACCEPTING THAT A "MOOD" IS A "USER-DEFINABLE PREFERENCES LIST", AND THAT THERE ARE MULTIPLE "MOODS" PER CUSTOMER THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION IS IN ERROR BECAUSE THERE IS NO SUGGESTION OF THE SPECIFIC SEQUENCE RECITED IN THE CLAIMS

Even assuming that a "mood" is a user-definable preferences list, the section cited by the Examiner or at Column 45, lines 56 - 67 does not teach or suggest the process specifically recited in the claim. The relevant part of Claim 1 reads "receiving a user identification... searching a set of ... lists to identify ... lists corresponding to the identified user,... displaying a list of the identified ... lists ... [and] receiving a selection."

Herz states only that a customer may override a "mood" indicator or specify a profile. There is no description of how this may be done. A typical way in 2005 would be to provide a list of all the "moods" in an OSD (On-Screen Display) and then allow the customer to highlight one with an arrow key and select it with a Select key. The Examiner has made no showing as to how this might have been done in 1994 when Herz was filed or in 1997 or so when the present invention was made

Neither reference shows the express limitations recited in the claims. Neither Knee nor Herz teaches searching a set of user-definable preferences lists, displaying the lists and receiving a selection from the user. Without any such suggestion, the references are insufficient to render the claims obvious.

E.   SUMMARY

Herz is a voluminous patent with 68 columns of text including 95 claims. Yet in all of this description, there is no clear mention that different persons each have different moods and no suggestion that a user select an ID, then select a "mood". While such a large reference contains a great amount of text, the text must all be taken in context. The issue is what the two references would teach or suggest to a person of average skill. The issue is not whether unrelated features of the reference might be stretched far enough to vaguely resemble the recitations in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that even if a "mood" could be equated with a user-defined preferences list, the two sections of Herz upon which the Examiner relies (in Columns 17 and 45) do not go together to form a combination with Knee.

In summary, the Examiner's theory is understood as follows. A person of average skill reading these two large references in context would take the idea of multiple favorite channel buttons from Knee The person would then combine this with the idea of user IDs from Herz and dedicate each favorite channel button to a different user. Now the buttons are equal to a user ID selection. The person of average skill would then find a suggestion

that the idea of moods in Herz be changed into a favorite channels list like that in Knee. This substitution would, however, defeat the entire purpose of Herz which is to make the choices automatically.

The person of average skill would then find a suggestion to add all the additional limitations of Claim 1, not suggested in either reference to provide the necessary infrastructure for a working system (e.g. searching, displaying, receiving a user selection and displaying the list). Neither reference describes any of these background processes because neither reference contemplates such a thing. Applicants respectfully submit that this goes well beyond obvious and that Claim 1 recites a patentable invention.

All of the other independent claims are believed to be allowable on the grounds provided above. Claims 46, 48, 49, and 50 further distinguish the preferences lists of the present invention from "moods" in Herz.

VII. CONCLUSION

Appellant respectfully submits that all the appealed claims in this application are patentable and requests that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences overrule the Examiner and direct allowance of the rejected claims.

This brief is submitted in triplicate, along with a check for $500.00 to cover the appeal fee for one other than a small entity as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(c). Please charge any shortages and credit any overpayment to out Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: September 7, 2005

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APPENDIX OF CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c)(7))

1.   A method of selecting an entertainment programming preferences list at an entertainment system comprising:

receiving a user identification at the entertainment system;

searching a set of user-definable preferences lists to identify preferences lists corresponding to the identified user, the preferences lists identifying a plurality of different channels of entertainment programming that can be added to and deleted from each identified list by the identified user;

displaying a list of the identified preferences lists to the user;

receiving a selection of a displayed identified preferences list from the user at the entertainment system; and

displaying the selected preferences list.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing, to the user, one or more of audio and video from a source in the selected preferences.

3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting one of the plurality of identified channels for provision to the user;

accessing, to determine a component corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of identified channels, a programming guide database that is independent of the selected user-definable preferences list; and

sending a signal to the component to provide the selected channel.

4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving a user request to provide a new channel; and

wherein the selecting, the accessing and the sending are performed in response to the user request.

5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising:

repeating the selecting, the accessing and the sending in response to subsequent user requests to provide a new channel.

6.   An article comprising a storage medium, the storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in:

receiving a user identification at an entertainment system;

searching a set of user-definable preferences lists to identify preferences lists corresponding to for the identified user, the preferences lists identifying a plurality of different channels of entertainment programming that can be added to and deleted from each identified list by the identified user;

displaying a list of the identified preferences lists to the user;

receiving a selection of a displayed identified preferences list from the user at the entertainment system; and

displaying the selected preferences list.

7.   The article of claim 6, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the processor, further result in providing, to the user, one or more of audio and video from a source in the selected preferences list.

8.   The article of claim 6, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the processor, further result in selecting one of the plurality of identified channels for provision to the user, accessing, to determine a component corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of identified channels, a programming guide database that is independent of the selected user-definable preferences list, and sending a signal to the component to provide the selected channel.

9.   The article of claim 8, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the processor, further result in receiving a user request to provide a new channel, wherein the selecting, the accessing and the sending are performed in response to the user request.

10.   The article of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the processor, further result in repeating the selecting, the accessing and the sending in response to subsequent user requests to provide a new channel.

11.   An entertainment system component comprising:

a storage device to store a set of user-definable preferences lists, the preferences lists identifying a plurality of different channels of entertainment programming that can be added to and deleted from each list by a corresponding user;

a user interface controller to receive a user identification;

a channel selector, coupled to the storage device and the user interface, to search the set of user-definable preferences lists to identify preferences lists corresponding to the identified user and select one of the identified preferences lists using input received from the user interface controller; and

a channel selection controller, coupled to the storage device, to access the selected user-definable preferences list and select one of the plurality of identified channels for provision to the user.

12.   The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

a component controller coupled to the channel selection controller;

wherein the channel selection controller is to send the selected one of the plurality of identified channels to the component controller, and

wherein the component controller is to tune a corresponding component of the entertainment system to provide, to the user, one or more of audio and video from a source corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of identified channels.

13.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the channel selection controller is further to:

access, to determine a component of the entertainment system corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of channels, a programming guide database that is independent of the selected user definable preferences list; and

send a signal to the component to provide the selected channel.

14.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the channel selection controller is further to:

receive a user request to provide a new channel; and

wherein the accessing and the selecting are performed in response to the user request.

15.   The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the channel selection controller is further to repeat the accessing and selecting in response to subsequent user requests to provide a new channel.

16.   An apparatus for selecting an entertainment programming preferences list at an entertainment system comprising:

means for receiving user input, including a user identification;

means for storing a set of user-definable preferences lists , the preferences lists identifying a plurality of different channels of entertainment programming that can be added to and deleted from each list by the corresponding user;

means, coupled to the means for storing and the means for receiving , for searching the set of user-definable preferences lists to identify preferences lists corresponding to an identified user and for selecting one of the identified preferences lists using input received from the means for receiving; and

means, coupled to the means for storing, for accessing the selected user-definable preferences list and selecting one of the plurality of identified entertainment programming channels for provision to the identified user.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

means, coupled to the means for accessing and selecting, for controlling components in the entertainment system; and

wherein the means for accessing and selecting is for sending the selected one of the plurality of identified channels to the means for controlling, and wherein the means for controlling is for tuning a corresponding component of the entertainment system to provide, to the identified user, one or more of audio and video from a source corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of identified channels.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the means for accessing and selecting includes:

means for accessing, to determine a component of the entertainment system corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of identified channels, a programming guide database that is independent of the selected user-definable preferences list; and

means for sending a signal to the determined component to provide the selected channel.

19-32. (Canceled)

33. The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing an indication to the user when the user has completed a cycle of the selected preferences list.

34. The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically selecting additional ones of the plurality of identified channels at predetermined intervals.

35. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the channel selection controller provides an indication to the user when the user has completed a cycle of the selected preferences list.

36. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the channel selection controller automatically selects additional ones of the plurality of identified channels at predetermined intervals.

37-45. (Canceled)

46.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the set of preferences lists for the
identified user are generated by the identified user.

47.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the set of user-definable preferences lists
are stored at a component of the entertainment system.

48.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising modifying the selected
preferences list by the identified user through at least one of adding, deleting, and
reordering an entertainment programming channel of the selected preferences list.

49.   The method of Claim 6, wherein the set of preferences lists for the
identified user are generated by the identified user.

50.   The method of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of instructions, when
executed by the processor, further result in modifying the selected preferences list by the
identified user through at least one of adding, deleting, and reordering an entertainment
programming channel of the selected preferences list.

51.   An entertainment system controller for use with an entertainment system
comprising:
     a user interface controller to receive user input including a user identification;
     a preferences database to store a set of user-definable preferences lists, the
preferences lists identifying a plurality of different channels of broadcast video that can
be added to and deleted from each list by a corresponding user;
     a preferences controller, coupled to the preferences database and to the user
interface controller, to search the set of user-definable preferences lists to identify
preferences lists corresponding to an identified user and display the identified lists to the
corresponding user and, in response to a selection of one of the identified preferences

lists received from the user through the user interface controller, to select one of the identified preferences lists;

an electronic programming guide (EPG) database to store EPG data;

an EPG controller coupled to the EPG database to access and provide EPG data; and

a channel selector coupled to the user interface controller, to the EPG controller and to the preferences controller to access the EPG database through the EPG controller to determine a component of the entertainment system corresponding to a selected one of the plurality of broadcast video channels of the selected preferences list; and send a signal to the determined component to provide the selected channel.

52.   The controller of claim 51 wherein the channel selector is further to access the selected preferences list and select one of the plurality of broadcast video channels for provision to the user.

53.   The controller of claim 52, wherein the channel selector is further to receive a user request through the user interface controller to provide a new channel and the channel selector accesses the selected preferences list and selects one of the plurality of broadcast video channels in response to the user request.

54.   The controller of claim 51, further comprising a component controller to communicate with entertainment system components and wherein the channel selector sends a signal to a determined component through the component controller.

55.   The controller of claim 51, further comprising a tuner to tune to the broadcast video channels.